

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, GW
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES
SUMMARY: AT AM MEETINGS AUG. 3 AND 4, COMMITTEE HEARD STATEMENTS
BY CHILE, FRANCE, MEXICO, CANADA, SWEDEN, AND ITALY, ALL OF WHICH
SUPPORTED THE DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST
THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES. AT END OF AUG. 4 MEETING, CHAIRMAN
(HARRIMAN) MADE INAPPROPRIATE INTERVENTION IN WHICH HE
SUGGESTED ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION WOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM TO
AFRICANS, IF OTHERS WERE WILLING TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM
OF PEOPLES BEING TAKEN HOSTAGE, I.E., ZIMBABWE. PM MEETINGS
AUG. 3 AND 4 WERE CANCELLED FOR LACK OF SPEAKERS. END SUMMARY.

1. CHILE WAS ONLY SPEAKER AT AM AUG. 3 MEETING. REFERRED TO
THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND SECURITY OF PERSON IN THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CONVENTION ON CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS, CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST TAKING
OF HOSTAGES BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS AND SUPPORTED
THE FRG DRAFT CONVENTION.

2. AT AUG. 4 MEETING, FRANCE CONDEMNED TAKING OF HOSTAGES,
NOTED THAT IT WAS PROHIBITED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS DURING
WARTIME, REFERRED TO THE ANTI-HIJACKING AND THE PROTECTION OF
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DIPLOMATIS CONVENTIONS, AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO WORK ON A
CONVENTION BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF "PROSECUTE OR EXTRADITE".
WELCOMED THE FRG DRAFT.

3. MEXICO SAID THAT IT WAS WILLING TO SUPPORT A CONVENTION
IF IT WAS LIMITED TO ACTIONS WHICH WERE OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNI-
FICANCE, IF THE RIGHT TO GRANT ASYLUM WERE RECOGNIZED IN

THE CONVENTIONS, AND IF THE CONVENTION DID NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING CONVENTIONS. SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A CONVENTION TO APPLY TO HIJACKING SITUATIONS COVERED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTION OR BY THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL THERETO. WITHOUT EXPLICITLY SAYING SO, SUGGESTED THAT ANY CONVENTION AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BE RELIED UPON IF THE TAKING IS ONE THAT IS PROHIBITED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OR THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL.

4. CANADA STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND URGED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE FRG DRAFT.

5. SWEDEN SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FRG DRAFT. ACKNOWLEDGED THE RIGHT OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO STRUGGLE FOR THEIR SELF-DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ERADICATING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES, BUT SAID NO CAUSE COULD JUSTIFY THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES.

6. ITALY SAID STATE LAWS AGAINST KIDNAPPINGS WERE INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION AGAINST GROWING PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL TAKINGS OF HOSTAGES. WELCOMED THE FRG DRAFT, SAID IT FOUND THE DRAFT ACCEPTABLE, AND URGED ITS STUDY.

7. AT CLOSE OF AUG. 4 DEBATE, AMB. HARRIMAN, CHAIRMAN, IN EXTRAORDINARY UNSOLICITED COMMENT FROM CHAIRMAN SAID THAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD BE EASY TO AGREE THAT THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES SHOULD BE PROHIBITED DURING PEACETIME, SINCE IT IS ALREADY PROHIBITED DURING WARTIME. HOWEVER, SAID THERE HAD BEEN DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SINCE 1949 WHICH MADE AGREEMENT DIFFICULT. SAID THAT THE AFRICANS WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE CONDEMNING THIS TYPE OF TAKING OF HOSTAGES, IF OTHERS WERE ALSO WILLING TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF SITUATIONS WHERE WHOLE PEOPLES ARE HELD HOSTAGE, SUCH AS ZIMBABWE. URGED FRG TO CONSULT WITH AFRICAN STATES IN THIS REGARD.

8. SOVIETS STILL PLAYING CURIOUS CAT AND MOUSE GAME WITH COMMITTEE REGARDING RAPORTEURSHIP ASSERTING NEED FOR TIME TO DECIDE WHOM THEY WISH TO NOMINATE FROM THEIR GROUP.

LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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